

Take The Golden Trail- Study Guide #1

Teacher Notes:

The Golden State Museum provides a rich learning environment. We want to encourage students to stop and investigate various exhibits in order to make their own conclusions and predictions. One of our main objectives is to be “The Idea Place.”

The Study Guide will enhance your students’ understanding of the California story. Each section has questions with varied thinking levels. Some questions are easier and others are intended to be more thought provoking. Students will use the audio guide to answer some of the questions.

We invite you to come to the Museum for a preview before bringing your class if you have the time. Some teachers prefer to design their own questions or knowledge-based scavenger hunt.

Teaching Suggestions: Modifications for Study Guide

- We recommend that students work in pairs. If two students will be sharing an audio guide with two headsets, one could carry and operate the audio guide while the partner writes their collaborative answers for two galleries. Partners can switch roles for the next two galleries. This is an excellent opportunity for “pair/share” or cooperative learning.
- There are 12 questions dealing with the four theme areas in the Museum. Given your available time to spend in the galleries, have your class complete 8 out of 12 or 10 out of 12. Allow the students the choice of which questions to complete, or have them circle questions to complete before coming to the Museum.
- Fourth grade teachers may want their students to answer only the questions on The Place, The People, and the overall section. Students may enjoy exploring the exhibits on the first floor in their small groups for exposure about future studies.
- Divide your class into 4 groups: The Place, The Politics, The Promise, and The Politics. Assign the questions for that area to the group. They will be the experts in that area of the California story and write the answers for those questions. As a follow-up in the classroom, have each group report their findings to the rest of the class. Classroom Extension: Have each group to develop persuasive reasons why their area is the **best** in the Museum.
- Students can complete questions #13-15 in the classroom, if necessary.

We have clipboards available at the Museum for the students to use for written assignments. Notify the front desk attendant if your class will need the clipboards. **Please remind your students to write only with pencils at the Museum.**